

Step 5 shows that Mark and Evelyn's earned income is within the limits allowed to claim the EIC. Step 6 indicates they will use the EIC Worksheet to figure the amount of the credit.

**Continued from page 41****Step 5**   **Earned Income****1.** Figure earned income:

Form 1040A, line 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Subtract, if included on line 7, any:

- Taxable scholarship or fellowship grant not reported on a Form W-2.
- Amount paid to an inmate in a penal institution for work (put "PRI" and the amount subtracted to the left of the entry space for line 7 of Form 1040A).
- Amount received as a pension or annuity from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan or a nongovernmental section 457 plan (put "DFC" and the amount subtracted to the left of the entry space for line 7 of Form 1040A). This amount may be shown in box 11 of your Form W-2. If you received such an amount but box 11 is blank, contact your employer for the amount received as a pension or annuity.

**Earned Income =** **2.** If you have:

- 2 or more qualifying children, is your earned income less than \$33,692 (\$34,692 if married filing jointly)?
- 1 qualifying child, is your earned income less than \$29,666 (\$30,666 if married filing jointly)?
- No qualifying children, is your earned income less than \$11,230 (\$12,230 if married filing jointly)?

☐ **Yes.** Go to Step 6.☐ **No.** 

You cannot take the credit.

**Step 6**   **How To Figure the Credit****1.** Do you want the IRS to figure the credit for you?☐ **Yes.** See *Credit Figured by the IRS* on this page.☐ **No.** Go to the worksheet on page 44.**Definitions and Special Rules***(listed in alphabetical order)*

**Adopted Child.** An adopted child is always treated as your own child. An adopted child includes a child placed with you by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption even if the adoption is not final. An authorized placement agency includes any person or court authorized by state law to place children for legal adoption.

**Credit Figured by the IRS.** To have the IRS figure the credit for you:

1. Put "EIC" to the left of the entry space for line 41 of Form 1040A.
2. If you have a qualifying child, complete and attach Schedule EIC. If your EIC for a year after 1996 was reduced or disallowed, see Form 8862, Who Must File, below.

**Exception to "Time Lived With You" Condition.** A child is considered to have lived with you for all of 2003 if the child was born or died in 2003 and your home was this child's home for the entire time he or she was alive in 2003. Temporary absences, such as for school, vacation, medical care, or detention in a juvenile facility, count as time lived at home. If your child is presumed to have been kidnapped by someone who is not a family member, see Pub. 596 to find out if that child is a qualifying child for the EIC. To get Pub. 596, see page 7. If you were in the military stationed outside the United States, see Members of the Military on page 43.

**Form 8862, Who Must File.** You must file Form 8862 if your EIC for a year after 1996 was reduced or disallowed for any reason other than a math or clerical error. But you do not have to file Form 8862 if either of the following applies.

- After your EIC was reduced or disallowed in an earlier year (a) you filed Form 8862 (or other documents) and your EIC was then allowed and (b) your EIC has not been reduced or disallowed again for any reason other than a math or clerical error.
- You are taking the EIC without a qualifying child and the only reason your EIC was reduced or disallowed in the earlier year was because it was determined that a child listed on Schedule EIC was not your qualifying child.

Also, do not file Form 8862 or take the credit for 2 years if it was determined that your error was due to reckless or intentional disregard of the EIC rules (or 10 years if due to fraud).

*(Continued on page 43)*